

**DRAFT**



## **Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System Guideline**

<b>Subject: System Command Structure</b>	<b>Approved: 31 August 2004 Revised:</b>
<b>Chapter: Operations</b>	<b>FRG: 2.0.1</b>
<b>Approved: _____, Fire and Rescue Commission</b> <b>_____ , Dept. of Fire and Rescue Services</b> <b>_____ , Operational Medical Director</b>	

**Purpose:** To establish system command structure for the Loudoun County fire and rescue system.

**Authority:** The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors endorsed the fire and rescue system operational command structure adopted in this guideline on 4 February 2002.

**Guideline:**

1. The Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System operates as a system of volunteer and career staff. The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, recognizing the combined nature of the system, has endorsed the following operational command structure (decreasing order of command responsibility):

- a. Chief of the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System (Chief of the Department of Fire and Rescue Services)
- b. Fire and/or Rescue Chief of each Fire and/or Rescue Company
- c. Fire and/or Rescue Assistant Chiefs of each Fire and/or Rescue Company and the Assistant Chief of the Department of Fire and Rescue Services
- d. Fire and/or Rescue Deputy Chiefs of each Fire and/or Rescue

## **DRAFT**

- Company and Deputy Chiefs of the Department of Fire and Rescue Services
- e. Battalion Chiefs of the Department of Fire and Rescue Services (volunteer and career staff)
- f. Fire and/or Rescue Captains of each Fire and/or Rescue Company and Captains of the Department of Fire and Rescue Services
- g. Fire and/or Rescue Lieutenants of each Fire and/or Rescue Company and Lieutenants of the Department of Fire and Rescue Services
- h. Fire and/or Rescue Sergeants of each Fire and/or Rescue Company
- i. Master or Senior Technicians of each Fire and/or Rescue Company, Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedics / Intermediates / Cardiac Technicians, and Master Technicians of the Department of Fire and Rescue Services
- j. Technicians of each Fire and/or Rescue Company, Emergency Medical Technician – Enhanced / Shock – Trauma, and Technicians of the Department of Fire and Rescue Services
- k. Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians - Basic of each Fire and/or Rescue Company and the Firefighter / Emergency Medical Technicians of the Department of Fire and Rescue Services

2. Patient care decisions shall be the responsibility of the senior, locally-authorized advanced life support or basic life support provider on the scene of an emergency incident.

3. The Operational Medical Director, and in his absence, the Assistant Operational Medical Director, shall have the equivalent authority of the Chief of the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System regarding operational medical protocols and policies as well as on-scene patient care matters.

4. Volunteer fire and rescue staff, regardless of volunteer rank, shall be considered Battalion Chiefs of the Department of Fire and Rescue Services while acting as the on-duty Battalion Chief.

5. Career and volunteer staff acting as Senior County Fire and Rescue Duty Officers shall be considered Deputy Chiefs of the Department of Fire and Rescue Services, regardless of actual rank.

**DRAFT**

## **DRAFT**

6. Management of fire suppression and hazardous materials incidents shall be the primary responsibility of the senior fire officer present at the emergency scene. Management of emergency medical and rescue incidents shall be the primary responsibility of the senior emergency medical/rescue officer present at the emergency scene. All officers are expected to ensure that competent command is established and maintained throughout an incident.

7. Law enforcement considerations, emergency ordinance disposal operations, and other incidents may require modification of the command structure specified in this guideline. Modifications that may be required due to Federal or State law or prudent incident management practices are authorized. Command leadership is expected to make leadership decisions that are in (1) the public interest, (2) preserve the safety of fire and rescue staff and the public, and (3) protect property.

8. One of the principal roles of senior leaders within the fire and rescue system is to mentor future operational leaders. To the extent possible within safety and tactical constraints, senior leadership is expected afford incident command opportunities to junior leadership.